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4 April 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Operations

SUBJECT: Indexing of Soviet Bloc Publications

REFERENCE: AD/O Memorandum to AD/IC, 12 February,  
enclosing Bagnall Study

1. This is an interim report in reply to your memorandum to me of 12 February enclosing the FDD study on indexing. We are trying to resolve the disagreements that now exist with respect to this study although in some aspects the solution will depend upon the ultimate nature of FDD's agreed function in the community.

2. [ ] CIA Librarian, is going ahead on those items for which the study suggested he be responsible. They involve monographic material, both current and backlog, from the State Department and non-IAC agencies.

3. Although the system for indexing current Soviet periodicals is generally satisfactory and a proposal for improving the organization of current Eastern European periodicals is under consideration by LC and NCFE, the situation with respect to the backlog on both of these is unclear. The library is looking into the problem.

4. The FDD proposal to translate the tables of contents of Chinese periodicals is endorsed (subject to paragraph 5, below), although it is assumed that this treatment will be necessary only for a selected list of periodicals. It is suggested that if an additional person is needed, he be hired as soon as possible.

5. It is the view of O/RR, O/SI and O/CD, however, that translated tables of contents alone would not be sufficient to meet research needs and that a fuller subject indexing should be undertaken. This applies both to Chinese periodicals and those Soviet and Eastern European periodicals which do not reach the Library of Congress. O/CD is developing a detailed proposal for this indexing which, if adopted, would closely parallel and supplement the work on similar materials by the Library of Congress.

6. The procedure for handling within the Agency such monographic material as is received from the Military Services has not yet been agreed upon. This is an aspect of the more general problem of the arrangements

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between FDD and O/CD with respect to indexing of foreign publications. It is also questioned whether an abstract of this material (together with CIA's accessions) would be worthwhile. It may be that, should the Air Force and Navy insist on some kind of listing, a simple accessions list would prove satisfactory.

JAMES Q. REBER  
Assistant Director  
Intelligence Coordination

cc: AD/CD  
AD/RR  
AD/SI

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